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Protest awaits CIA recruiters

By KERY MURAKAMI

Central Intelligence Agency recruiters, almost a year after being chased out of the MLB by protesters, are coming back to campus.

Recruiters will interview about 18 University students today and tomorrow for jobs with the agency, said Ane Richter, assistant director of the University's Office of Career Planning Placement (CC&P)

AND STUDENTS are expected to protest again. "It's hard to say what we're going to do because we don't know what the CIA is going to do," said Mark Weinstein, an LSA junior and a member of the Latin American Solidarity Committee.

He said that demonstrators will gather in front of the Student Activities Building at 8 a.m. and then rally on the Diag at noon.

But spokespeople for CP&P and the CIA downplayed the anticipated protests. Deborah Orr May, director of career planning and placement said the office was not taking any special precautions to guard against demonstrations.

"The students have a right to express their opinions," May said. But she added that the office's job is to make sure that students who want interviews get them without distractions. Students interviewed are nervous enough without the protesters, she said.

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KATHY PHERSON, a spokesperson for the CIA said yesterday, "We recruit at a couple of hundred campuses every year. Protests are just something that happen every once in a while. It's not something we're too concerned about."

Last November, students disrupted a presentation by the recruiters, chasing them out of the Modern Languages Building and into their cars. Interviews the next day were cancelled, though students met with recruiters a month later undisturbed.

CIA recruiters held interviews in January with no major distractions. Security guards restricted the protesters to the main CP&P office, away from rooms in the back where the interviews were held.

AN UNDERLYING issue of recent protests has been freedom of speech. The University's Board of Regents condemned the CIA protesters last November, saying their actions restrict the rights of students who sought interviews. Individual regents have criticized protesters at a campus speech by Vice President George Bush earlier this month, saying they violated the rights of others to hear the speech.

But Weinstein doesn't agree, "If the Mafia wanted to recruit, we wouldn't let them. If the PLO wanted to recruit here, we wouldn't let them. Why should we let the CIA, which is the largest of these kinds of organizations, recruit? There is no freedom of speech to recruit terrorists."

Opponents of the CIA have criticized the agency for illegally mining harbors in Nicaragua, as well as aiding the Contras in Nicaragua and helping overthrow the government in Chile.

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